

Thomas Edison Community School

Educators, families, and students in Kindergarten through grade 5



The community school initiative:

- *Implements a school wide ELA instructional system.*
- *Provides adult education services*
- *Operates a summer and after school program*

Results



- *Over two consecutive years, Edison school's performance on NYS 4th grade ELA and Math tests has exceeded that of comparison schools.*

The Program

The Thomas Edison Community School is a *full service* elementary school that supports children's overall growth and achievement by strengthening home-school-community partnerships and serving as a neighborhood hub for the delivery of education, health, and human resources to all residents of the district.

The collaborative effort with its community partners has resulted in nine school wide initiatives: (1) a summer program for enrichment in reading and math; (2) an after school program "WEE CARE" combining academics with recreation and arts; (3) KIDS COUNT program that offers psychological counseling to at-risk students and families; (4) EDISON CARES Family Outreach intervention and prevention services for multi-stress families; (5) Developmental Studies Center that supports violence prevention; (6) professional development program for school faculty; (7) reciprocal teacher education programs for staff and student interns; (8) adult education program in areas such as technology, job placement, GED, and advocacy; and (9) additional family services such as the organization of health and fitness fairs. The school has also established a K-5 comprehensive ELA instructional approach that utilizes consultants, vertical and horizontal team teaching, and sound reading and writing strategies for all learners.

Professional Development

Training includes: Balanced Literacy Instruction (15-day training/year over two years for all teachers); Caring Communities (2.5 days over two years); school wide Faculty Retreat (1 day/year); an annual Community School Conference at Harvard University attended by (4) school team members; and ongoing inservice and preservice teacher education.

Costs & Funding Options

Professional development costs include: \$900/day for the Balanced Literacy Instruction trainer with a BOCES CO-SER plus substitute teacher costs; \$1,200/day (excluding travel from California) for Caring Communities and a one-time \$1,000 for materials; food expenses for the Faculty Retreat and travel, food, and lodging expenses for the Community School Conference in Boston. Staffing costs include: a FT Community School Coordinator and a PT Family Caseworker (17 hours/week), and teachers and artists 3 hours/day for the after school WEE CARE Program, plus \$5,000-\$10,000/year in materials. Drug and Violence Prevention and SAVE legislation funding dollars may be applied. After school programs may be underwritten by NYS Advantage Grant and The After School Corporation (TASC) funding streams.

Learning Standards

The program addresses all NYS Learning Standards.

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